

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8-9, and 21-23 are pending in the application. Claims 6-7 and 10-20 have been withdrawn from further consideration as directed to a nonelected invention and are hereby canceled. Claim 4 has also been canceled. Claims 1, 8 and 21 are amended. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-5 and 21-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Selker et al. (U.S. 6,067,466). Selker et al does not disclose or suggest a method for screening an individual or group of patients for the likelihood of having left ventricular systolic dysfunction (LVSD) comprising measurement of the levels of a natriuretic peptide in a sample or samples of bodily fluid of said patient. Thus, it does not anticipate the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

Claims 8-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)/103 as being anticipated by Selker et al. (U.S. 6,067,466). As discussed above, Selker et al does not disclose or suggest a method for screening an individual or group of patients for the likelihood of having left ventricular systolic dysfunction (LVSD) comprising measurement of the levels of a natriuretic peptide in a sample or samples of bodily fluid of said patient. Thus, it does not render the claimed invention obvious. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)/103.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conversation with Applicant's Attorney would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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